

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following text on page 1, line 3 of the specification:

-- This application claims priority from PCT application S/N PCT/US99/16669 filed July 22, 1999, published internationally under PCT Article 21(2) in English, which claims priority from United States provisional application S/N 60/094,076 filed July 24, 1998. --

Please delete the text on page 1, lines 10-13 of the specification.

Please replace the abstract, beginning at line 1 of page 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- A process for producing alkyl esters useful in biofuels and lubricants by transesterifying glyceride- or esterifying free fatty acid- containing substances in a single critical phase medium is disclosed. The critical phase medium provides increased reaction rates, decreases the loss of catalyst or catalyst activity and improves the overall yield of desired product. The process involves the steps of dissolving an input glyceride- or free fatty acid- containing substance with an alcohol or water into a critical fluid medium; reacting the glyceride- or free fatty acid- containing substance with the alcohol or water input over either a solid or liquid acidic or basic catalyst and sequentially separating the products from each other and from the critical fluid medium, which critical fluid medium can then be recycled back in the process. The process significantly reduces the cost of producing additives or alternatives to automotive fuels and lubricants utilizing inexpensive glyceride- or free fatty acid- containing substances, such as animal fats, vegetable oils, rendered fats, and restaurant grease. --